

EdForward EL Stakeholder Webinar Key Considerations

July 15, 2020

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is focused on supporting schools as schools plan for the 2020-21 school year. A particular challenge will be providing continuity of educational services for English learners (ELs) throughout disruptions caused by COVID-19. Under state and federal law schools have a civil rights obligation to provide equitable access to education for ELs. These rights are not suspended or waived, and schools will need to rise to the challenge of continuing to provide equitable access to academic content and facilitate student progress towards English language proficiency (ELP).

In response to the challenges presented by COVID-19, this document was developed to clarify district responsibilities around serving and supporting ELs:

What assessments may be used for EL identification? Can they be used remotely?

The K W-APT, K MODEL, and WIDA Screener remain our official ELP Screeners. If at all possible these must be administered to potential ELs within the first 30 days of school, in a face-to-face setting. If this is not possible, the new WIDA Remote Screener may be used as one of multiple measures to make an EL determination for newly enrolled students.¹

Will ACCESS for ELLs still be administered this year?

As of August 1, 2020, there are no waivers for the annual ELP assessment. The ACCESS test window is scheduled to run December 1st, 2020 to January 29, 2021.

What information is required to be communicated to parents?

Federal law requires parental notification of ELs within the first 30 days of school², and this has not been waived. Standard parental notification forms may also need to be updated or supplemented to reflect the new identification process. Parents should understand this process, and should have the option of requesting one of the standard ELP screeners, should they be able to be administered.

Will there be funds to offer translation and interpretation services(T/I) and technological

Resources to address the needs of ELs?

Parents of ELs have the right to meaningful access to the same information as all other parents in an accurate and timely manner. Under no circumstances can a district charge

¹ Link to Screener guidance

² <https://dpi.wi.gov/english-learners/el-identification-and-placement> (See Chapter 3, page 2.)

parents for any services related to T/I. Title III funds should only be used for translation and interpretation services that are supplemental and if what is being translated is directly related to Title III LIEP programming.

Can a district redistribute EL staff as general education teachers?

English learner professionals should not be moved outside of their roles within the core LIEP to perform general education services. During this pandemic, an LEA must continue to provide language instruction services to ELs as required under federal law. EL professionals should be utilized for Language Instruction Educational Programs (LIEP) to continue to provide services to all ELs within and according to any LIEP models offered. Content and classroom teachers must still provide appropriate support and accommodations to all EL students who are in their mainstream classrooms to the greatest extent possible via any modality and in collaboration with English learner professionals, as the function of this necessary collaboration is teaching English language while at the same time providing ELs the necessary access to learning content.

It is more likely that you will need to supplement core LIEP programming in light of this pandemic to include additional support to meet the needs of ELs and their families across changing learning environments in order to provide continuity and fidelity of services.

What are the expectations around instructional minutes?

The instructional minutes provided to ELs should be comparable to what you would typically offer your ELs under normal circumstances. The manner in which those services are provided, i.e., online, telephone, etc... may be different.

Has DPI released any safety recommendations to protect traveling teachers who travel across many different schools, grades and classrooms and for all the students and staff they will inevitably come in contact with?

As health and safety regulations are a local decision, check with your school board, village, town, or city health department, and county health department for the most up-to-date guidance.

DPI understands that guidance can change quickly as information evolves. We encourage you to visit our [COVID-19](#) webpage for the most current information regarding any changes.